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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/480,694

Applicant(s)

SUGIURA ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 January 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 11 January 2000 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/928,467.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 08/928,467, filed on Sep. 12, 1997.

### *Drawings*

2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 1/11/00 (paper # 4) have been accepted by the Examiner. These drawings are 2, 7, 8, 10A, 10B, 10C, 11A, 12, 14C, and 16C;

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-9 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mandel (US Patent No. 5,435,544) and Arimoto et al. (US Patent No. 5,977,954).

As to claim 6, Mandel teaches a printing control method in a printing apparatus (i.e., a printer in fig. 18, col. 16, lines 20-22 shows a printer having a mailbox unit) which has a plurality of paper feed inlets and a plurality of paper discharge outlets (the printer "in figure 18" includes: 1) hoppers or drawers, which would be considered as paper feed inlets, are in the rectangle forms at the bottom of the printer in fig. 18. It would be understood that the hoppers for

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storing all designated sheets in order for all designated sheets are directed by the mailbox unit 10 to bin or bins “col. 21, lines 26-27”, and the inputted sheets which are fed by the sheet feeding system to the bin selector system “col. 24, lines 31-35”; and 2) mailbox bins 11 from the mailbox unit 10 of the printer “in figure 9A” that would be representing of paper discharge outlets because they temporarily stores outputted papers or sheets from the printer in separate job sets “col. 16, lines 53-58” and the job set in each bin is ready for picking up by the user), and prints in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices (it is noted that the function of the printer for printing the print jobs “col. 20, lines 29-31” from external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-43”), comprising:

establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices  
(it is noted that the printer for establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices by:

1) accepting the different type of the print jobs from a plurality of different external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-49”, and the printer allows the client to submit a printing job, including an Interpress TM or other such as paper size, number of copies, and device-specific information; and the printing protocol also allows the client to query the print service regarding the status of the job, for user notification “col. 19, lines 50-55”;

2) notifying the status of each print job to each user “col. 20, lines 31-35”;

3) arranging each print job set from each user to individual bins for individual users “col. 16, lines 53-58; and please see the each user’s outputted job is located to each bin at the mailbox in fig. 18”; and

3) providing the information of each identified user with jobs and bin location to the display device at the mailbox unit “col. 16, lines 63-65; and col. 28, lines 58-62”);

assigning a paper discharge outlet for each operating relationship (it is noted that a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin as discussed above. Jobs is separated and stacked to each bin and each bin is assigned by the printer to each print job for a particular user “col. 16, lines 53-64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”);

However, Mandel does not teach a step of assigning a sheet input (or a paper feed inlet) by the printing apparatus for each operating relationship.

Arimoto, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a step of assigning a paper feed inlet at the printing apparatus (i.e., a copier “in fig. 1-A and 1-B” having a printer unit B for printing each document “col. 3, lines 45-48”) for each operating relationship (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit “in fig. 2” of the copier displays a plurality of cassette stages “i.e., paper feed cassettes 915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45”, which would be representative of paper feed inlets because they stores different types or sizes of sheets that is fed for printing, includes the upper and lower cassette stages and each cassette stage for storing each size of papers. Therefore, one of cassette stages is assigned for each document image).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the step of assigning in Mandel to include a step of assigning the paper feed inlet (or the sheet input) for each operating relationship as taught by Arimoto. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Mandel can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art

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as set forth above by Arimoto because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for controlling the paper feed inlets by assigning one of the paper feed inlets for the desired paper of each print job sent from each user.

As to claim 7, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6, and Mandel further teaches that a paper discharge outlet is specified for each operating relationship, so that the same paper discharge outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships (in fig. 8 and col. 16, lines 20-22 show the print job set of each user name is distributed to each bin location. Therefore, the same bin is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships).

As to claim 8, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6 including the teaching of Arimoto that the paper feed inlet (or the paper feed cassette 915 in fig. 1-B and col. 4, lines 54-55) is assigned by a panel operation (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit "in fig. 2" of the copier "in fig. 1-A and 1-B" displays a plurality of cassette stages "915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45" includes the upper and lower cassette stages for selection).

However, neither Mandel nor Arimoto teach a paper discharge outlet is assigned by a panel operation.

Mandel teaches the system administrator for controlling the printing at the printer user interface (the printer U.I. or the printer panel 104 in fig. 1; and col. 33, lines 21-27) and further teaches the well known prior art that the Genicon system allows the administrator to assign bins (col. 10, lines 38-39). Thus, the paper discharge outlet (or the bin) assigned by a panel operation that would be well known.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the panel operation of Mandel and Arimoto for assigning the

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paper discharge outlet (or the bin) as the well known prior art. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Mandel and Arimoto can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by the well known prior art because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for allowing the system administrator at the printer to control printing operation through the panel by assigning each bin to a print job of each user. In the resultant system, the system administrator would easily keep track the print job of each user at the operation panel of the printer.

As to claim 9, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6, and Mandel further teaches that the states of the operating relationships are displays in a list (col. 28, lines 57-62 describes that the display means or panel "104 in fig. 1 or the mailbox user interface liquid crystal LCD" displays the states of the operating relationships in the a list by showing all the various customer names and bin locations which currently have jobs in the mailbox unit).

As to claim 21, Mandel teaches a printing control method in an apparatus (i.e., a printer in fig. 18, col. 16, lines 20-22 shows a printer having a mailbox unit) which has feed inlets and discharge outlets (the printer "in figure 18" includes: 1) hoppers or drawers, which would be considered as paper feed inlets, are in the rectangle forms at the bottom of the printer in fig. 18. It would be understood that the hoppers for storing all designated sheets which is directed by the mailbox unit 10 to bin or bins "col. 21, lines 26-27", and the inputted sheets which is fed by the sheet feeding system to the bin selector system "col. 24, lines 31-35"; and 2) mailbox bins 11 from the mailbox unit 10 of the printer "in figure 9A" that would be representing of paper discharge outlets because they temporarily stores outputted papers or sheets from the printer in separate job sets "col. 16, lines 53-58" and the job set in each bin is ready for picking up by the

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user), and prints in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices (it is noted that the function of the printer for printing the print jobs “col. 20, lines 29-31” from external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-43”), comprising:

establishing operating relationships independently with the respective devices

(it is noted that the printer for establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices by:

1) accepting the different type of the print jobs from a plurality of different external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-49”, and the printer allows the client to submit a printing job, including an Interpress TM or other such as paper size, number of copies, and device-specific information; and the printing protocol also allows the client to query the print service regarding the status of the job, for user notification “col. 19, lines 50-55”;

2) notifying the status of each print job to each user “col. 20, lines 31-35”;

3) arranging each print job set from each user to individual bins for individual users “col. 16, lines 53-58; col. 4, lines 27-33 and please see the each user’s outputted job is located to each bin at the mailbox in fig. 18”; and

3) providing the information of each identified user with jobs and bin location to the display device at the mailbox unit “col. 16, lines 63-65; and col. 28, lines 58-62”);

assigning a discharge outlet for each operating relationship (it is noted above that a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin. Jobs is separated and stacked to each bin and each bin is assigned by the printer to each print job for a particular user “ col. 16, lines 53-

64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”);

However, Mandel does not teach a step of assigning a sheet input (or a paper feed inlet) at the printer for each operating relationship.

Arimoto, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a step of assigning a paper feed inlet at the copier (i.e., a copier “in fig. 1-A and 1-B” having a printer unit B for printing each document “col. 3, lines 45-48”) for each operating relationship (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit “in fig. 2” of the copier displays a plurality of cassette stages “i.e., paper feed cassettes 915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45”, which would be representative of paper feed inlets because they stores different types or sizes of sheets that is fed for printing, includes the upper and lower cassette stages and each cassette stage for storing each size of papers. Therefore, one of cassette stages is assigned for each document image).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the step of assigning in Mandel to include a step of assigning the paper feed inlet (or the sheet input) for each operating relationship as taught by Arimoto. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Mandel can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Arimoto because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for controlling the paper feed inlets by assigning one of the paper feed inlets for the desired paper of each print job sent from each user.

As to claim 22, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 21, and Mandel further teaches that a paper discharge outlet is specified for each operating relationship, so that the same paper discharge outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships (in

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fig. 8 and col. 16, lines 20-22 show the print job set of each user name is distributed to each bin location. Therefore, the same bin is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships).

As to claim 23, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 21 including the teaching of Arimoto that the feed inlet (or the paper feed cassette 915 in fig. 1-B and col. 4, lines 54-55) is assigned by a panel operation (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit "in fig. 2" of the copier "in fig. 1-A and 1-B" displays a plurality of cassette stages "915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45" includes the upper and lower cassette stages for selection).

However, neither Mandel nor Arimoto teach a discharge outlet is assigned by a panel operation.

Mandel teaches the system administrator for controlling the printing at the printer user interface (the printer U.I. or the printer panel 104 in fig. 1 and col. 33, lines 21-27) and further teaches the well known prior art that the Genicon system allows the administrator to assign bins (col. 10, lines 38-39). Thus, the discharge outlet (or the bin) assigned by a panel operation that would be well known.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the panel operation of Mandel and Arimoto for assigning the paper discharge outlet (or the bin) as the well known prior art. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Mandel and Arimoto can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by the well known prior art because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for allowing the system administrator at the printer to control printing operation through the control panel by assigning each bin to a print job of each user. In the resultant

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system, the system administrator would easily keep track the print job of each user at the operation panel of the printer.

As to claim 24, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 21, and Mandel further teaches of displaying the states of the operating relationships in a list (col. 28, lines 57-62 describes that the display means or panel "104 in fig. 1 or the mailbox user interface liquid crystal LCD" displays the states of the operating relationships in the a list by showing all the various customer names and bin locations which currently have jobs in the mailbox unit).

#### ***Examiner's Remarks***

Tsuji (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,132) discloses a control panel for allowing the user to set a recording paper cassette selection by a key.

Nakazato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,464,200) discloses bins from the printer device are each inclined from a top sheet inlet thereof to a bottom sheet outlet.

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran  
Mar. 26, 2003

